

# SylviusVG: Visual Glossary of Human Neuroanatomy

S. Mark Williams, Leonard E. White, and Andrew C. Mace

## About SylviusVG

*SylviusVG* (*Sylvius*) is an interactive glossary of the human central nervous system. *Sylvius* contains over 500 neuroanatomical structures and terms, each including a definition, location, and function, one or more high-resolution images or animations, audio pronunciation, and links to related terms and structures also found in the glossary. The interactive features in *Sylvius* focus on efficient navigation, learning, and sharing:

- Glossary content is fully searchable and cross-referenced
- Advanced searching tools allow refinement of search results by description, location, function, and notes
- The Browse by Category feature allows the user to view structures and terms related to specific anatomical groups (e.g. cranial nerves, visual system)
- Recently viewed images can be quickly reviewed via the History function
- Structures and images of interest can be bookmarked
- High resolution images and animations can be magnified 200%
- Term descriptions can be annotated via powerful Notes feature
- Notes can be shared between users or computers using a web browser and Internet connection
- Quiz mode allows for testing on structure identification
- Printing allows users to create a hardcopy version of any glossary entry complete with image, description, and notes
- Keyboard navigation allows users to quickly browse through terms and images

In addition, each registered *Sylvius* user has access to the fully-functional web version<sup>1</sup> of the program. Users log in with the e-mail address and password with which they registered. The website accompanying *Sylvius* is located at <http://www.sylvius.com/vg/>.

## System Requirements

*Sylvius* supports Microsoft Windows and Mac OS 9 and X.

Minimum system requirements:

### Microsoft Windows:

XP, 2000, NT 4, Me  
256 MB RAM  
500 MHz processor  
1024x768 resolution  
Sound card  
CD-ROM drive

### Mac OS X:

OS X 10.2  
256 MB RAM  
500 MHz processor  
1024x768 resolution  
Sound card  
CD-ROM drive

### Mac OS 9:

OS 9.2  
256 MB RAM  
233 MHz processor  
1024x768 resolution  
Sound card  
CD-ROM drive

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.sylvius.com/SVG/web/>.

Notes sharing requires a web browser, [Macromedia Flash Player 7 or newer](#), and an Internet connection.

## Using Sylvius

### Registration

The first time you run *Sylvius*, you will be prompted to register. Registration requires an Internet connection. Registering entitles you to updates, notes sharing, web support, and access to the fully-functional web version. You may enter your full name (e.g. S. Mark Williams) or a nickname (e.g. Len); what you specify here will be linked to your notes and travel with them as they are shared. Your e-mail address will serve as your login name to access protected areas of the *Sylvius* website. It will also be used to send you your password if you forget it. Your e-mail address will not be used for commercial purposes. Registration is not required to use *Sylvius*, although it is necessary to access product updates and to use the web version. However, *Sylvius* will indicate the availability of updates regardless of whether you are registered.

### Getting Acquainted

After the registration prompt, the main interface will load. The left side of the window contains interface elements related to navigating glossary content while elements on the right side apply to the currently selected term.

In the upper left-hand corner of the window, there are three tabs: **Index**, **Bookmarks**, and **History**. Changing the selected tab updates the contents of the terms list directly below the tabs. The Index listing contains all of the terms included in *Sylvius*. The History maintains a list of the last 25 viewed images. Any structures bookmarked will be included in the Bookmarks listing. Use the up and down arrows keys to step through the terms list. Use the text input field next to the three tabs to search through the terms in the list.

Below the terms list is a list of categories. Selecting a category filters the terms list to include only those terms assigned to the category. For example, choosing the category "Cranial Nerves" will show all of the glossary terms related to the cranial nerves.

To the right of the lists are interface elements related to the currently selected term. The definition of the term is displayed below the image viewing area. The Notes tool is located to the right of the definition and is used to view and manage your notes about the structure you are currently viewing. Notes management buttons are located below the Notes field. Use them to add, save, delete, and share your notes.

To the right of the main image is the image toolbar. Use the buttons in the toolbar to interact with the currently selected image; for example, to magnify the image, to toggle its labels on and off, or to hear the term pronounced. If you are unsure of a button's action, you can pause for a moment with the mouse over a button to activate the button's tool tip. Tool tips provide a convenient way to getting more information about a button's function. Tool tips that end in "..." signify that clicking the button will display additional prompts.

The application window can be resized to provide more space for the interface elements. As the size increases, the window elements will resize. Although the window can be made smaller than its initial size, the content will be cropped.

## Interactive Features

### History

The last 25 terms viewed are listed in History. Select the **History** tab or use the **Forward** and **Back** buttons on the far right to navigate the history.

### Bookmarks

Terms and images can be bookmarked for later use or study. Click the **Bookmark** button on the far right to add the selected term. If the selected term contains multiple images or animations, the currently selected image will also be included in the bookmark. Thus, returning to the term via the bookmarks listing will load the image selected when the term was bookmarked. If the selected term is already bookmarked, the **Bookmark** button will change to show the “remove bookmark” icon. Clicking the button will remove the selected term from the bookmarks. Bookmarks are saved locally on your computer. Note that content saved locally is not dependent on the location of the *Sylvius* application.

### Search

The search feature allows for efficient navigation of *Sylvius* content. The search input field is located next to the three tabs in the upper left-hand corner of the window. Click on the small magnifying glass in the input field to show the advanced search options: name, description, location, function, and notes. Check or uncheck the box for each option depending on whether to include it in the content to search. If the query is found in the specified search domains, the term will appear in the list. The content is filtered while typing, so pressing the Enter or Return key is not necessary. Once a search is performed, a small ‘x’ button appears to the right of the input field. *To clear the search field and remove the filtering on the terms list, click this button.* When switching between tabs, the search field is automatically cleared.

### Multiple Image Support

Each term in the glossary contains between one and four high-resolution images and animations, with most having three. If more than one image is available for the selected term, a “drawer” will appear at the bottom left of the image viewing area containing numbered thumbnails of all the images available. You can click the tab on the right edge of the drawer to show and hide it. Click on a thumbnail to load that image into the image viewing area or use the left and right arrows keys to step through the images. In addition to the definition, location, and function supplied with the term, an individual image may also contain a description relevant to that specific image. If present, it will be displayed below the main description with an “About this Image:” heading.

### Animation Support

When an animation is loaded into the image viewing area, a playback controller will appear in the upper right-hand corner. There are five buttons in the controller: play, pause, rewind, step forward, and step backward. Use the controller to interact with the animation.

### Quiz

*Sylvius* contains a self-quiz feature. Clicking the **Quiz** button on the right side of the window will enable quiz mode, hiding the terms list, description, notes field, and image labels. The quiz toolbar will appear with buttons for navigating through the terms, as well as a button to show and hide the description and notes fields. The terms *in the currently selected category* will be presented in a random order. Clicking the **Quiz** button again

will exit quiz mode. Selecting the **Bookmarks** or **History** tabs will also turn off quiz mode.

### Printing

The print feature in *Sylvius* allows the user to create a hardcopy version of the selected term. The printout includes the term name, its description, your notes, and the image. Clicking the **Print** button will launch the printer setup prompts.

### Magnify

Clicking the **Magnify** button will zoom the image to 200%. Clicking the **Magnify** button again will return the image to standard magnification. Magnification works particularly well in full screen mode (click the **Full Screen** button to toggle in and out of full screen mode). Some images are low resolution and cannot be magnified, as indicated by a grayed-out magnify button.

### Audio Pronunciation

Click the **Speaker** button to hear the pronunciation of the selected term.

### Notes

Notes are a powerful feature you can use to make annotations to the provided term descriptions. You can also share your notes with other students or colleagues via the *Sylvius* website. For example, if you are a course instructor, you can export your *Sylvius* notes and e-mail them to your students for them to import.

Since notes are stored locally on your computer, when you create your first note you will be prompted to allocate storage space. Note that content saved locally is not dependent on the location of the *Sylvius* application and works even if you are running *Sylvius* from the CD-ROM.

The notes tool is located to the right of the term description field. To add a note, click the **Add Note** button. The notes interface will enter edit mode. After typing the note, click off of the notes area to quit edit mode. To modify a note, click on its entry to enter edit mode and make any updates. If you would like to remove a note, clear its contents while in edit mode. You can also clear all of the notes for the selected term or all notes for all terms by clicking the **Clear Notes** button. This will display a prompt asking which action to perform.

### Sharing

If you are a registered user, you can share your notes provided that you have an Internet connection. Click the **Share Notes** button to launch your web browser and open the *Sylvius* website. You can choose to import or export notes. After choosing, the web browser will communicate with *Sylvius* to perform the requested action. If exporting, the exported file will be downloaded to your computer. The exported file can be imported at a later time by anyone using *Sylvius* or stored for safekeeping. If importing, the imported content will merge with the existing notes, but the identity of the creator of the notes will be maintained and displayed.

## Updates

When the **Updates** button at the bottom left corner becomes highlighted, updates to *Sylvius* are available. Clicking this button will open your web browser and take you to the *Sylvius* website, where you will be able to get more information about nature of the

update. Although only registered users have access to *Sylvius* updates, all users will be notified of their availability.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I copy the contents of the *Sylvius* CD to my hard drive?

A: Yes, for best performance this is recommended. Drag the folder named *Sylvius* to your hard drive. You can then run *Sylvius* from this new location and the CD is no longer required. Notes and bookmarks (and other content saved locally) will not be affected by moving the location of the *Sylvius* application.

Q: Can I keep my notes when I update *Sylvius*?

A: Yes, notes are stored in a separate location on your hard drive, independent of the location of your *Sylvius* application.

Q: Do I need an Internet connection to run *Sylvius*?

A: No; however, one is required in order to register, share notes, and get product updates.

Q: How much space should I allocate for notes?

A: We recommend 1 MB to avoid being prompted to increase the allocation in the future.

Q: How do I access the web version of *Sylvius*?

A: The web version is available at <http://www.sylvius.com/vg/web/>. You will be prompted to enter a user name and password; use the same e-mail address and password you specified when you registered *Sylvius*.

## Troubleshooting

Issue: I cannot import or export my notes.

Solution: A few situations could be to blame. First, check if you have a network connection. Next, try restarting *Sylvius*. If that doesn't solve the problem, check to ensure that the [sylvius.com](http://www.sylvius.com) website is online. If importing, the file may be corrupted; try exporting again. If the problem persists, contact [support@sinauer.com](mailto:support@sinauer.com) and include the name and version of your web browser, your version of *Sylvius* (found by clicking the **About Sylvius** button), and, if importing, the file to be imported.

For more information, contact [support@sinauer.com](mailto:support@sinauer.com) or visit <http://www.sylvius.com/vg/>.